

# REPORT

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OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Borough of South Molton

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FOR THE YEAR 1965.



# Borough of South Molton

Telephone No.  
South Molton 2117

Public Health Department,  
8, East Street,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

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# Annual Report

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND THE  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
FOR THE YEAR 1965.

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E. WILLIAMS  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health

L.W. EVES,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector



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# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

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To his Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1965.

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.—Councillor Miss A. WILLIAMSON  
J.P.,

Chairman — Councillor W. G. BROWN

COUNCILLORS — J. CARTER, C.A.

Alderman F. J. LOOSEMORE, J.P.

S. J. KINGDON

L. L. LOCK

R. T. PATTINSON

H. R. PIERCE

## STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### Part-time Officers—

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I., (up to March, 1965)

D. J. BYRON, M.A.P.H.I., (as from June, 1965)

G. T. HILL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	...					2,970
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.65)	...	...	...	...	...	£81,217
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1964/65)	...	...	...	...	...	£312
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,029
Number of Corporation Houses	...	...	...	...	...	255
Extracts from Vital Statistics—						
Births: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.23
Deaths: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	0.51

### VITAL STATISTICS—

#### Live Births—

Number	...	...	...	...	...	43
Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	14.47
Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	17.80
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births						6.97

#### Stillbirths—

Number	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	43
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 Year)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality Rates—						
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Legit. „ „ „ Legit. „ „	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Illeg. „ „ „ Illeg. „ „	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
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#### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	67
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	22.54
Death Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	11.49

### BIRTHS—

During the year there were 43 Live Births as compared with 51 in 1964. There were 3 illegitimate births.

#### LIVE BIRTHS—

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	24	16	40
Illegitimate	...	2	1	3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor) 17.80

#### STILL BIRTHS

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...			Nil

#### DEATHS

The total number of deaths within the Borough during the year was 67—there being 39 males and 28 females. Of the 67 deaths there were 23 at Beech House, 15 of whom had been in residence for more than six months.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	22.54
Death Rate per 1,000 Population (adjusted)	...	...	...	11.49

The following table gives Causes of Death:—

		M.	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	1	0	1
„ „ „ —Lung, Bronchus	...	1	0	1
„ „ „ —Breast	...	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	1		2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0		0
Diabetes	0	0		0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	7		10
Coronary Disease, Angina	10	3		13
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1		3
Other Heart Disease	7	6		13
Other Circulatory Disease	0	1		1
Influenza	2	1		3
Pneumonia	2	1		3
Bronchitis	2	2		4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	0	0		0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duedenum	1	0		1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0		1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0		1
Congenital Malformations	1	0		1

Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	3	5	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	0	0	0
All Other Accidents	...	1	0	1
Suicide	...	0	0	0
		39	28	67

#### Deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Under 4 weeks	...	0	34	— 44 years	...	1
4 weeks—1 year	...	0	45	— 54 years	...	3
1 — 4 years	...	0	55	— 64 years	...	6
5 — 14 years	...	0	65	— 74 years	...	23
15 — 24 years	...	0	75	+ years	...	34
25 — 34 years	...	0				

#### Infant Mortality Rate—

During the year no infant died under the age of 1 year.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	0	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0

#### Maternal Mortality—

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

#### Cancer Deaths—

There were 7 deaths due to cancer during the year.

	M.	F.	Total
Stomach	...	1	0
Lung and Bronchus	1	0	1
Breast	...	0	0
Uterus	...	0	0
Others	...	1	2
	3	1	4

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year six infectious disease notifications were received, 2 cases of Measles and 4 cases of Whooping Cough No Tuberculosis notifications were received.

Age Groups		Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year		—	1
1 +		—	—
2 +		2	—
3 +		—	—
4 +		—	1
5 — 9		—	—
10 — 14		—	2
Total ...		2	4

### Brucella Abortus in Milk

A sample of milk taken from a farm in the Borough was reported as being positive on culture for Brucella Abortus organisms. The milk was not sold locally within the town but despatched daily to the Torridge Vale Dairies. The farmer was informed of the infection within his herd and advised to consult his own Veterinary Office. He was advised to heat all milk used for his own domestic purposes.

The Borough is supplied by two milk retailers, one supplying pasturized, the other raw-untreated milk. Approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the milk sold within the Borough is untreated non pasteurized.

### TUBERCULOSIS

No new cases were reported during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register within the Borough on 1st January and 31st December, 1965

	M.	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
		F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1st January, 1965 ...	9	7	16	3	1	4	
31st December, 1965 ...	10	6	16	3	1	4	

### MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

No visit was made to the town during the year by the Mass Radiography Service.

A Mass Radiography Service unit does however visit the neighbouring town of Barnstaple every alternative Thursday for the service of the public between the hours of 9.30-11.30 a.m. in the Castle grounds.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (Section 47)

No cases were dealt with under this Act during the year.

## **MEALS ON WHEELS**

The meals on wheels service was begun in the Autumn of 1963, and is under the immediate control of the Women's Voluntary Service organised by Mrs. J. M. Cokayne Frith for South Molton. The meals are prepared at a local cafe—36 being provided twice a week and delivered to the elderly persons in the town, some having two hot cooked meals a week, others one only. There is no doubt that this worthwhile service is a great boon to the aged and is greatly appreciated.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

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### **Tuberculosis**

All Tuberculous patients until March 1963 were treated at the Hawley Hospital, Barnstaple. The decline in the number of T.B. patients has, as a result, led to the closure of the hospital, all patients are now being admitted to Hawkmoor Hospital.

### **Maternity Cases**

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

### **County Welfare Home**

There is a 100 bed County Welfare Home within the town.

### **Isolation of Infectious Diseases**

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious cases.

### **Smallpox**

The Smallpox Hospital, to which cases of Smallpox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

### **General**

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

## Clinic and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

FEMALES—Monday 4.00 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES— Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are 2 District Nurse Midwives in the area.

## Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## Infant Welfare Centre

Held Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.30 p.m. at 99, East Street, South Molton.

## Ante Natal Clinic

Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 99, East Street.

## **Ambulance Services**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the ambulance service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

## **Junior Training Centre—Abbeyfield, Barnstaple.**

This centre provides training facilities for mentally handicapped children between the ages of 5 and 16. Hostel accommodation is also provided for children who may live some distance away from the centre.

## **Adult training Centre.**

A new adult training centre for the North Devon area, expected to be opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

I desire to thank the Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

**E. WILLIAMS**

Medical Officer of Health.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON  
For the Year ended 31st December, 1965**

8, EAST STREET, SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1965.

During the year 2,806 visits and inspections were made including:—

**PUBLIC HEALTH—**

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	285
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	...	73
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	36
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	71
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	83
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	21
Disinfestations/Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	2
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	5
General	...	...	...	...	...	11
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...	...	...	...	...	47
FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	381
General	...	...	...	...	...	11
Waste Foods	...	...	...	...	...	4
FACTORIES—With Power	...	...	...	...	...	1
Without Power	...	...	...	...	...	1

**HOUSING—**

Slum Clearance/Rent Acts, Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	50
Council Houses Supervision, Etc	...	...	...	...	...	417
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	18
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	—
SHOP ACTS	...	...	...	...	...	4
HIGHWAYS	...	...	...	...	...	223
PUBLIC CONVENiences	...	...	...	...	...	8
LANDS AND PARKS	...	...	...	...	...	33
CORPORATE ESTATES, TOWN HALL, ETC.	...	...	...	...	...	284
MARKETS	...	...	...	...	...	77
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders & Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	389
MEETINGS	...	...	...	...	...	62
SWIMMING BATHS	...	...	...	...	...	62
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	...	...	3
CAR PARKS	...	...	...	...	...	33
STREET LIGHTING	...	...	...	...	...	60
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	...	40
						—
					Total ...	2,806
						—

## **WATER SUPPLY**

As from the 1st April the water supply was taken over by the North Devon Water Board.

Twelve water samples were taken from various points on the distributing system, all being satisfactory, of the 3 samples taken before chlorination prior to 1st April two were satisfactory.

Five samples taken from the Swimming Pool during the summer were all satisfactory.

## **SWIMMING POOL**

The swimming pool at Central Park was opened from the 13th May until the 11th September, during which time 12,391 persons attended for the purpose of swimming, including supervised parties from local schools. Since the pool was opened 36,591 persons have passed through the turnstile for the purpose of swimming.

## **HOUSING**

There were 19 private houses erected during the year, but no Council houses. Approval was given to seven Standard and one Discretionary Grant applications.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955**

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers and Provision Dealers			...	...	12
Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	7
Public Houses, Hotels	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1

(b) 10 Premises are registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food.

18 Premises are registered for the sale and storage intended for sale of ice cream. One premises is registered as a dairy.

(c) Condemned food is disposed of by being taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip.

## **FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960**

(d) 7 visits of inspection were made to Food Premises, improvement and compliance with the regulations were secured.

### **FOOD CONDEMNED**

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat ... ... ...			18	8
			18	8

### **PETROLEUM LICENCES**

Licences were granted for 21 premises to permit the storage of petroleum, total quantity covered by these licences being 46,812 gallons.

### **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The sewage disposal works and pumping station functioned satisfactorily.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

Both the private slaughterhouses are now in first class structural condition and a high standard of hygiene is maintained. All meat killed was inspected and it was necessary to condemn 6 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lbs. of carcase meat and 6 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lbs. of offal.

### **FACTORIES ACT 1961**

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

### **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT**

The Council have continued to have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt sufficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

L. W. EVES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	310	Nil	1153	814	Nil
Number Inspected	310	Nil	1153	814	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	1	1	N
Carcases of which some part or organ } was condemned	39	Nil	56	40	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected } affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	12.6%	Nil	4.94%	5.04%	Nil
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ } was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	30	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected } affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.68%	Nil
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ } was condemned	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





